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News in brief

2 Romulus men
arrested in child
support sweep

A Valentine's Day child support sweep conducted by Wayne County Sheriff's Deputies led to the arrest of 63 men who are allegedly several years behind in making child support payments.

Operation Cupid (Children Unsupported by Parents Intervention Detail) was carried out during several days, and led to the arrest of the men for whom felony warrants had been issued for non-payment.

Two of them men, Karl Davis and Oliver Mansell, allegedly owe \$10,000 and \$51,000, respectively, in payments, said Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

"Failing to financially support your own children when you have the ability to pay is a crime, both legally and morally speaking," Evans said.

"Every dollar that is collected as a result of this effort can be used to by custodial parents to purchase their kids the new clothes, school supplies - or even food - they need to thrive."

The men arrested had been charged with felony child non-support, had not-incumbency warrants issued for their arrest, violated the terms of their probation on prior child support related convictions, or failed to appear in court on a prior case involving their failure to pay child support.

There is an estimated \$3.5 billion in unpaid back child support owed to Wayne County children and their custodial parents. Worthy said the goal of the program is to encourage payment, not to place parents in jail.

"The money we collect makes a tremendous impact and enhances the quality of life for so many children," Worthy said. "Without these funds some children are forced to go with out the basic necessities of life."

Passenger travel
flat for 2007

The number of people who flew in and out of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in 2007 remained almost unchanged from the previous year, airport officials said last week.

According to estimates provided by the Financial and Planning Analysis Division at the airport, 35,966,800 total passengers either arrived or departed from the airport, which is 5,873 less than in 2006.

Declines in the level of travel both November and December of 3.4 percent was the reason the airport failed to surpass 2006 numbers, said Lester Robinson, the CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority.

"It's a positive sign that we are holding our own when so many other sectors of the local economy are in decline," he said.

Numbers for international passengers did increase by more than 8 percent in 2007 because of increased passenger counts for Lufthansa Airlines, which is based in Germany, and Northwest, which added several international routes in 2007.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

5 to vie for 2 Romulus school board

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Five candidates have filed to seek two open spots on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education.

Incumbent Tom Kuderik will face with four challengers, including Carl Brooks, Danielle Funderburg, Darran Shelby, and Jay Williams.

Betty Lenossi, a 12-year veteran of the school board, is not seeking a fourth term, and is retiring from public life, she said in an interview two weeks ago. Kuderik is a two term-member of the board.

All board members in Romulus serve four-year terms and are elected at-large.

Other competitors for the seat also have name recognition.

Brooks is the former department of public service director for the city of Romulus, and retired two years ago. In that capacity, Brooks oversaw all public works activities and road activities in the city.

I'm hoping the third time is the charm, but I'm not taking for granted that the fact I've run twice before makes me a shoe-in - I still have to get out there and meet the constituents.

Danielle Funderburg

Also seeking a seat is Funderburg, who has sought election twice before, but was edged out.

"I'm hoping the third time is the charm," she said. "But I'm not taking for granted that the fact I've run twice before makes me a shoe-in - I still have to get out there and meet the con-

stituents."

Funderburg is a graphic artist who has served as a parent volunteer at Wick Elementary School, where her two children attended classes.

"I've been in the schools quite a lot, and I understand what is happening in our classrooms," she said. "I think that if classes are too big, people are going to see that there's an overwhelming atmosphere and wonder if their children are getting individual attention. If they don't see that, of course they're not going to send their child there."

Funderburg said she believes the current board is doing a good job for the district, but also said she wants to make sure the district stays the course that benefits students.

"I won't say that anyone's doing a bad job," she said. "I just want to be sure that we're setting policy and procedures that benefit students academically."

See Schools, page 4

Special
visitor

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano visited the Romulus Senior Center Monday to speak about issues facing the very young and the elderly. Ashley Luttman and Polly Lopez, above, listen intently during the speech. Ficano (right) also spoke with seniors individually.



Center opening could be April 1

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The long-awaited opening date for the Romulus Athletic Center will likely be revealed at the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council on Monday, city officials said.

Mayor Alan Lambert said a series of unforeseen accidents at the construction site have pushed

back the opening a little farther.

"The contractors spilled some sort of paint thinner on some of the tiles, and they have to be pulled up and replaced," he said. "But I'm going to push for an April 1 opening."

The council will have to approve any opening date for the facility, which has been under construction at Wayne and Northline Roads for about two

years.

The recreation facility is the first new municipal building constructed in the city in many years. The \$18 million building was formerly a warehouse facility. The project was financed by Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) funds.

In the months that followed the

See Center, page 4

Local casino
wins OK of
committeeMolly Tippen
Staff Writer

It's all in the hands on Nancy Pelosi.

The process of building a casino in the city of Romulus inched a little closer to success when the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee advanced a bill that would allow a controversial land claim by bands of the Chippewa Indians to build casinos in Port Huron and Romulus.

The approval means that the bill will not likely be sent to the Rules Committee for modifications, and that Speaker of the House Pelosi could call for a vote anytime, said Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert.

"We've been told that no matter how this goes, we should know how to proceed in about 30 days," he said.

Meanwhile, city officials are meeting tomorrow with Rep. John Dingell (D-Dearborn), who has supported the casino bill for some time.

"We're going to talk about what comes next," Lambert said. "After we heard the bill was approved by the (Natural Resources) committee, we were very happy, that's for sure."

A delegation of Romulus casino supporters testified about the economic development aspects of a casino Feb. 5 in front of the House Natural Resources Committee, and within days of the testimony, the bill was sent to the House floor.

The supporters who back the plan include Lambert and Dingell, who spoke at the hearing, and several others who sent letters of support, including Sen. Carl Levin and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

There was also a delegation of speakers against the bill, including Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his mother, Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), who fear a casino 17 miles outside of the city will cut into the dedicated revenue stream Detroit gets from the three gambling houses in that city.

See Wait, page 4

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Long-time college educator to retire

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Gerald Van Dusen, teacher at the Wayne County Community College District western campus (WCCCD), will put down his chalk and retire after almost 40 years at the school.

Van Dusen, of Plymouth, said teaching is a commitment to see his students achieve in the classroom and in life.

"I came here straight out of graduate school," he said. "I had to rethink every assumption about teaching and relearn how to interact with students using methods that were foreign to my personal experience."

After Van Dusen earned degrees from the University of Detroit, the University of Wyoming and the University of Michigan, he started teaching at the WCCCD. At the time, the college was just a series of 'store-front' locations, and students and instructors used any available space that could be leased for classrooms.

"I began teaching at WCCCD in the summer of 1972, at the time when the district was trying to create an identity for itself within a community clearly in crisis," Van Dusen said. "I tried to create new and unusual learning envi-

"He always had a drive to move students to another level, not only in English, but also for an appreciation of the world."

George Swan

ronments using technology.

"Eventually I branched off into areas of technological delivery," he added. "First, with telecourses, later with interactive television and today with asynchronous online classes via blackboard. I also introduced the first online blackboard classes a decade ago. On the topic of delivery, I couldn't have predicted its potential growth, but I envisioned a clear niche market, but today it has grown well beyond that classification into the mainstream of educational delivery."

He has always been at the forefront of a new frontier in education, according to college officials.

"He was one of our stars early on in delivering telecourse offerings and broke ground with online learning," said George Swan, supervisor and vice-chancellor of curriculum planning and accountability for the college. "He's (Van Dusen) held in high regard by his peers and continues to help in assessment activities."

In addition to his teaching career, Van Dusen is also the author of Virtual Campus and Digital Dilemma. Several articles addressing teaching and learning in the new technologically driven environment were also collected in a highly regarded anthology: Distance Education: Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, officials said.

Van Dusen has also received several awards, including the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award. He also served as a technology consultant to the National Educational Association, as well.

Van Dusen said his greatest satisfaction, however, comes from the effect he's had on students.

"When a student succeeds it not only benefits the individual and their family, but it also adds



Gerald Van Dusen

to the community," he said. "It enriches my life in knowing that I helped them achieve their objectives."

"He really is a great, considerate and passionate instructor," said Swan. "He always had a drive to move students to another level, not only in English, but also for an appreciation of the world."

Parenting expo is planned

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Van Buren Public School Parent Involvement Committee will once again provide an educational opportunity for all parents.

On March 8, the committee, along with the Wayne County Community College District western campus will host the third annual event for parents, teachers and students. The expo will include speakers, contests and more. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the western campus at 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville.

The expo was brought back for a third year and will offer free resources to increase skills, knowledge and confidence, according to Cathy Bandy, co-chair of the parent involvement committee.

"We firmly believe our parents need to be informed on what is impacting children and how to help them," she said. "We're about helping parents to develop better relationships."

Bandy said something new this year at the event will be the breakout sessions designed for senior citizens.

"We want to embrace them and bring them in," she said. "There will also be ongoing health screening,

too."

The group is also trying to target the teen population, Bandy said, and will have special topics and speakers geared toward them. The first keynote speaker—Sara Grivas—will discuss "Darkness by Default" and the effects that the media has on this generation.

"With so much recent focus on the negatives in the Van Buren schools, we needed to re-focus some topics and this was one of them," said Bandy.

Another keynote speaker—Lucy French—will discuss "The Joy of Lifelong Learning", which is a presentation on the mind-body connection.

Other topics will include: Sparking the Learning Desire, When the Empty Nest Gets Full Again, Communication Styles, Stress, Building a Resiliency in Young Children, Making Family a Priority, Avoiding a Report Card Surprise, College Isn't Just For The Young, Today's Youth Culture and Choosing What To Let In.

"Many of these seem to be continuous issues that parents deal with," said Bandy. "We need to continue to get the message out there. If you know what the risk factors are, you

need to stand up and take responsibility.

"Awareness, teaching parent impact and holding them accountable," she added.

Kim Nofz, co-chair of the parent involvement committee said they host events such as these because nobody hands anyone an owner's manual on how to raise children.

"We need to get them training to raise parents' skills and confidence in being a parent," she said.

Registration will start at 9 a.m. and breakfast, childcare and lunch will be available. The expo is open to everyone. For more information or to register, contact the parent involvement committee at (734) 697-9123 ext. 230 or email parentinvolvement@vanburen-schools.net.

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JUMPER (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:50
DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13) 11:20, 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 11:00, 9:20
27 DRESSES (PG-13) 1:50, 4:20, 6:50
THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) 6:45, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:15
JUNO (PG-13) 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:45
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30

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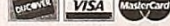
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Park improvement project poses problems for city

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Amenities for the Horizon Park project in Belleville are causing financial concerns for city officials.

Proposed plans—including 100 feet of wooden dock for boats, gates, a kiosk area and a barbeque area—are to be funded through a Wayne County parks grant, which is now about \$500,000. The funds were supposed to be spent by December 2007, according to Keith Boc, director of the department of public services.

“It’s imperative it gets spent,” he said at a recent city council meeting. “We’re going to lose that money unless decisions are made as soon as possible.”

There’s still about \$140,000 in unaccounted grant funds, he said.

Resident Chesley Odom asked why ama-

teurs are doing the work rather than professionals

“Signs are falling apart because there was no planning,” he said “You can’t have novices making decisions on brick and architecture work. It has to be done by professionals.

“The city council and the planning commission have to be accountable for what the decisions are. We have to look professional and bring in a professional. There are ways of spending that money.”

According to Hennessey Engineering, the plans should be done by March so when the

weather breaks, construction can start. The parks and recreation commission could call a special meeting to decide how to proceed on the project.

Boc also said he will work on information about the idea of making Liberty Street into a two-way street.

“I suggest that it be left one-way with the parking because unfortunately, people are going to avoid the area once Main Street construction starts. I wouldn’t recommend making it into a two-way,” he said.

Belleville officials also voted to take the

unresolved city charter amendment issue to the city attorney and direct him to write referendum ballot language to overturn the last charter amendment vote. Councilman George Chedraue was the only councilmember to vote ‘no.’

“If this is legislation that arises and never gets used it just hangs there, so I would just leave it how it is,” he said.

City Clerk/Treasurer Diana Kollmeyer said at some point in time, however, there’s going to have to be a legal opinion on the issue.

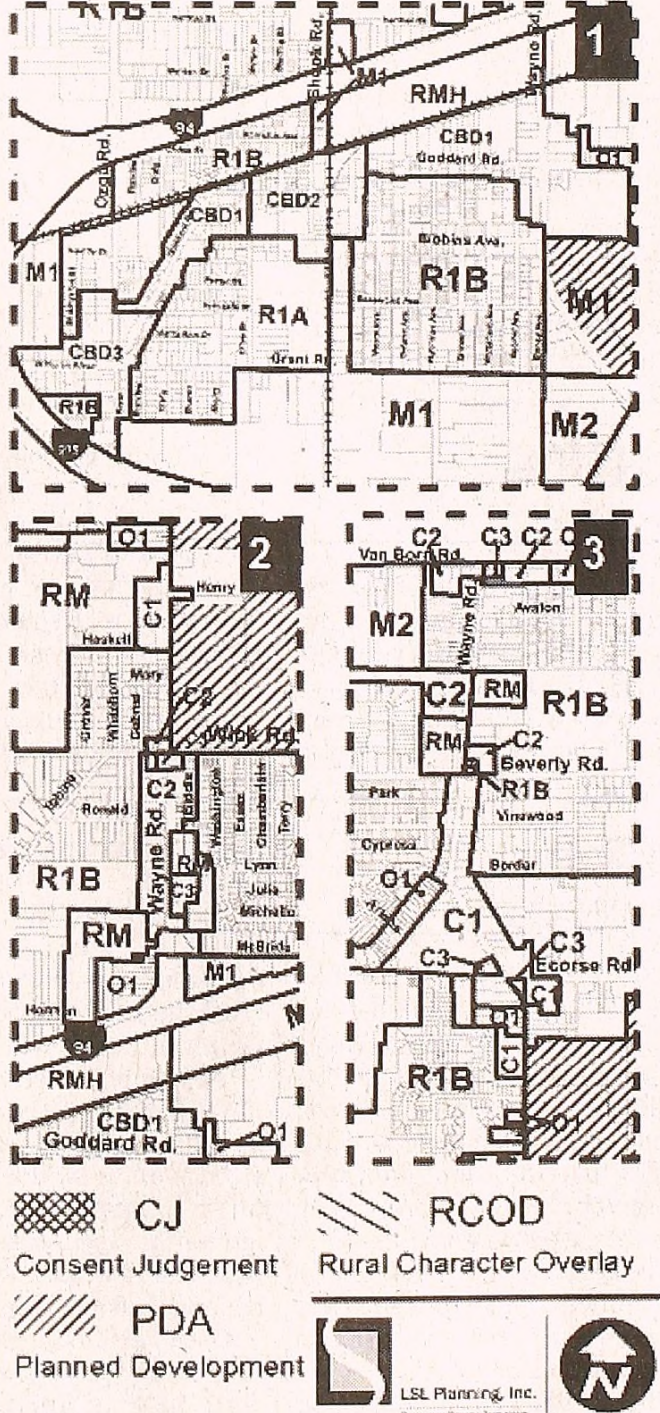
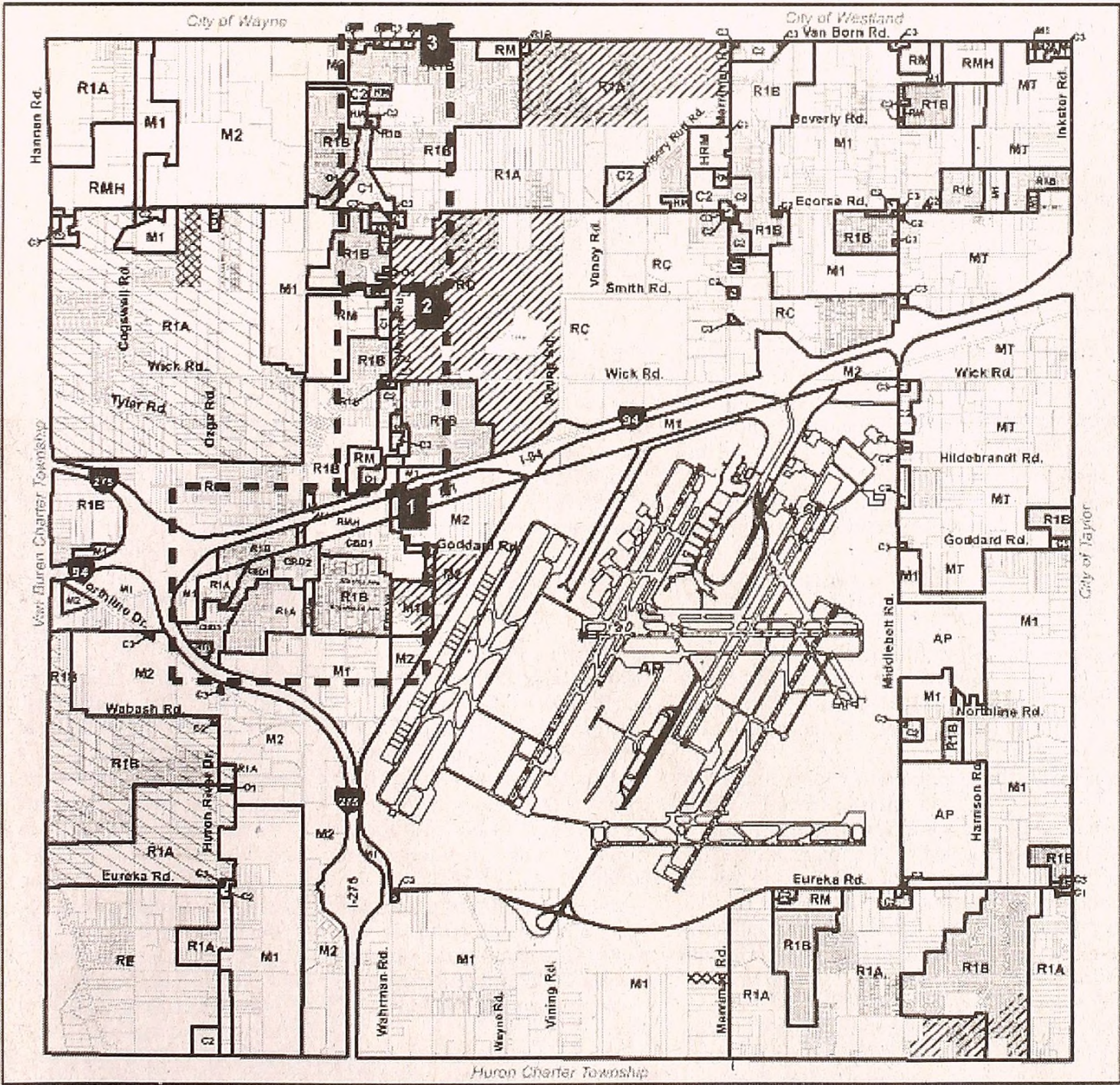
City officials also approved the 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recently. The city expects to receive about \$58,000 to use toward senior and disabled transportation services, senior and disabled chores services, barrier-free improvements to public facilities downtown and the general planning for senior and disabled accessibility.

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REVISIONS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2008** to receive comment on the draft revision to the entire City Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The revisions to the Zoning Ordinance include extensive changes throughout the document such as:

- o A reorganization of the format.
- o Updates to site plan review procedures and standards.
- o A renaming of the MT-1 Industrial Transportation District and MT-2 Industrial Transportation District 2 to MT Industrial Transportation District.
- o Elimination of the Central Business Overlay District to create Central Business District 1 (CBD1), Central Business District 2 (CBD2) and Central Business District 3 (CBD3).
- o Changes to the Zoning Map to reflect the new zoning districts and revised district names.
- o Updates to the list of uses permitted by zoning district.
- o Revisions to the single-family zoning district dimensional standards.
- o Significant revisions to the Industrial Districts dimensional and screening/buffer standards.
- o Revisions to regulations for non-conforming buildings, structures, lots, uses and sites.
- o Refinement of parking regulations, such as changes to the number of required parking spaces.
- o Revision to the landscape and screening regulations.
- o Revisions for Board of Zoning Appeals, variance criteria, ordinance administration and ordinance enforcement procedures and standards.
- o Updates to Definitions.



City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan Proposed Zoning Map

A draft copy of the entire Ordinance and Map are available for review at the Romulus Planning Department during regular business hours of Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and available online at www.romulusgov.com. Written comments concerning the text and/or map may be submitted to the attention of the Romulus Planning Department. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 and will be made part of the official record. Comments should be addressed to Attn: Planning Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174.

Starfish founder mourned

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

One of most active voices for vulnerable children in the Wayne County area has died after a long battle with leukemia.

Dr. Ouida Cash, who founded Inkster-based Starfish Family Services and saw the child advocacy agency through two mergers during her tenure, died on Saturday. She was 59 years old.

Staffers at Starfish and several other agencies mourned Dr. Cash's passing Monday.

"We will miss her dearly," said Starfish board chair Bill Mitchell. "We have all been inspired by her passion and vision for strengthening families. Her legacy resides in all of us, and we are committed to carrying her vision forward with the same passion."

Dr. Cash began leading Starfish Family Services in 1978 when the agency was known as Youth Living Centers.

At the time, the five-program agency focused on services for children and youth who had been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. Over her years of service, Dr. Cash transitioned the agency focus to prevention and early intervention with recognition that offering services before problems escalated and families broke apart would be more beneficial.

She directed the agency through two mergers, the first one in 1984 and the final one in 1998, which created the current, 12-program organization, Starfish Family Services. Dr. Cash served as CEO of Starfish through February 2007, when she was diagnosed with leukemia.

One of Dr. Cash's most recent initiatives was the creation of the Family Success Model, which provides a framework for families to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Starfish staffers had spoken with Dr. Cash as early as two weeks ago, when she told them she planned to

return to her work on the model. However, she was unable to fulfill that dream.

Dr. Cash will likely be remembered for her inner toughness when it came to her personal commitment to children, and her soft touch when dealing with them directly, said Melinda Clynes, a special projects coordinator for Starfish who worked with Dr. Cash for 18 years.

"I worked with Ouida for my entire career at Starfish," said Clynes. "She was very determined to help the children of western Wayne County. If she saw a need in the community, she would create a program that would meet that need. She was a force in the community for more than 30 years."

Over the years, Dr. Cash received numerous accolades, although she was best known in the nonprofit world for her vision, leadership and commitment to helping at-risk children and families in Western Wayne County.

In 2003, she received a



Dr. Ouida Cash

Leadership Challenge Award from the Detroit Regional Chamber; in 1998, a 30 Years-30 Women Award from Michigan Women's Commission and in 1996, the Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council.

She was also an active member of the Michigan Nonprofit Association and a member of the Oakwood Healthcare System board of directors.

A resident of Northville, Dr. Cash is survived by her husband, Ken Barnhill.

Calendar of events

Black History Month program planned

Young people will have the opportunity to learn more about the Underground Railroad and its connection to Romulus at 6 p.m. on Feb. 28 when the "Underground Railroad History" lecture comes to the library.

Lecturers will speak about the areas of the city that were once part of complex Underground Railroad system and the work of local abolitionists. Students will discover the meaning and interpretation of quilt codes, and will be given the opportunity to create their own codes.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Grief support available

The Hospice of Michigan will host two series of grief support meetings for anyone in the community who is coping with the loss of a loved one.

A series of meetings will begin at 9 a.m. on Sundays through March 16 at the Romulus Wesleyan Church.

Another series of meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays through March 20 at the Romulus Public Library.

Romulus Wesleyan Church is located at 37300 Goddard. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information about the seminars, call the Hospice of Michigan at (734) 769-4212 or visit www.hom.org.

Wayne County Treasurer creates taxpayer assistance initiative

To respond to a foreclosure crisis in Wayne County, Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz has created a program he said will help homeowners face the crisis.

"Operation Normandy" will bring together more than 20 non-profit agencies with the resources to help homeowners procure funding or legal representation to fight back against foreclosure. The organizations include: Latino Family Services, U-SNAP-BAC, MISSION of Peace, United Housing Coalition, Legal Aid and Defender of Detroit, ACCESS, Arise Detroit! Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund, Southwest Housing Solutions and the Accounting Aid Society, among others.

In addition to the non-profit groups, Wojtowicz is also seeking financial assistance programs consistent with the low-cost loan program underwritten by Comerica Bank with the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund to assist in the payment of taxes.

"Quite frankly, it is about survival," said Wojtowicz. "Whatever our office can do to help people navigate their way through the myriad hardships they are experiencing we are more than happy to do."

The outreach campaign will be implemented in two phases over the next four months. Phase I focuses on communication with homeowners by encouraging them to confront their fears of calling for assistance by recognizing people and organizations they know and trust, including the treasurer's office.

Phase II will take place in June with the use of community groups and neighborhood associations going door-to-door to contact those individuals with occupied property who did not contact either the treasurer's office or any of the nonprofit organizations.

To learn more about the program, visit the Office of the Wayne County Treasurer at 400 Monroe, 5th Floor, in Detroit.

Student support of soldiers rewarded

Andrea King
Staff Writer

When Amy Chrisner and her special education students at Haggerty Elementary School in Belleville first became pen pals with soldiers in Iraq, they didn't know what to expect.

Chrisner said their correspondence began during Christmastime when she stumbled across an angels website for soldiers. Someone on the site posted that they wanted to talk to an elementary school. She wrote the soldier—Spc. Ernest Hilbert—a letter, she said, and started talking to him through email.

"He runs the detention center holding facility in Baghdad and originally it was just letters to me, but now he writes to all the students," said Chrisner.

The third, fourth and fifth grade students joined Chrisner in writing, until Hilbert decided to get the other soldiers in his platoon together to adopt the children. Now, each student has their own pen pal, she said.

"He (Hilbert) was personally writing the kids," said Chrisner.

Hilbert took a step further and sent the students a unique surprise to the school all the way from Iraq recently. Through a classroom webcam, Chrisner and her 14 students opened the gift last week.

Hilbert, who was able to communicate through the eight-hour time difference with the class as they opened their presents, said he really just wanted to do something special for them.

"It's not just special for them, but for me, too," he said. "I'm big on working with kids, that's what I like to do."

Chrisner said each soldier pooled their money together to purchase backpacks made out of Army print material for the students.

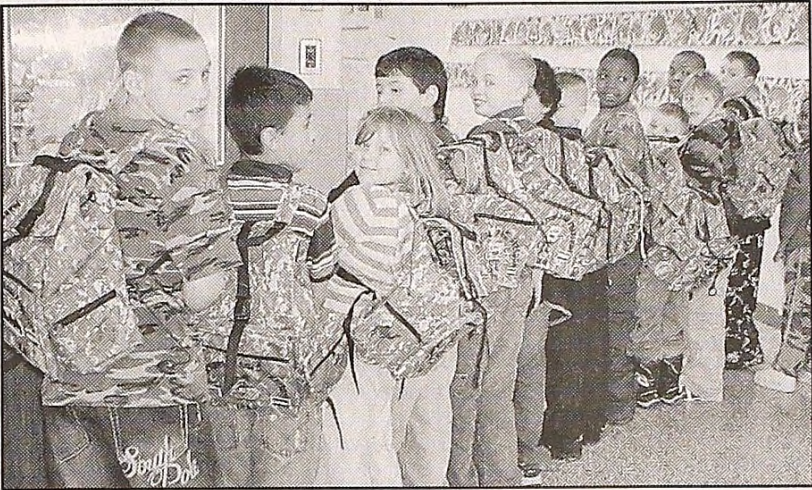
"They all have the kids names on them, the platoon names and their favorite cartoon characters," she said. "The kids had no idea these gifts were coming."

The backpacks, along with a certificate, card and pictures of their adopted soldiers, were made in Kuwait and shipped to Baghdad before arriving in the United States.

Haggerty principal Aleisa Pitt said when she first heard about the pen pal venture, she was touched.

"I think they wanted to do something special and give the soldiers a piece of Belleville so they could feel a connection while being away from home," she said.

"It was a big undertaking, planning this secret surprise for the kids," she added. "Then, Ernest (Hilbert) called every day to find out if the package had



Teacher Amy Chrisner's special education class at Haggerty Elementary School received a gift recently from their pen pals in Iraq: custom-made backpacks. The students were 'adopted' by Spc. Ernest Hilbert and his platoon at a detention center facility in Baghdad.

arrived."

Hilbert said the letters were what meant more than anything to him.

"They sent me candy, care packages, things I could pass on to the other soldiers because it's a family thing," he said. "But, the letters, that's what helped out a lot."

Chrisner said the classroom will continue their project: Letters to Iraq.

"My kids were really reluctant at first to write the letters, but now, it only takes them one day because they're so happy and excited," she said. "It motivates them and makes them want to write."



Election

FROM PAGE 1

"I'm a big advocate of college. There are some people who say, 'some people just aren't college material,' but I would rather have it be a choice if students don't want to go to college. I would never want

it to be something they're unable to do."

Not much is known about Jay Williams and Darran Shelby, both first-time candidates in the district. Attempts to reach them, along with Brooks and Kuderik, were unsuccessful Tuesday night.

Romulus Community Schools is currently comprised of five ele-

mentary schools, one middle school, one high school and an alternative education facility. The district has about 350 employees and operates on a \$22 million annual budget.

Four thousand students are currently attending classes at the district.

The last day to register to vote

in the school election is April 7. Residents can register at the City Clerk's Office, which is located in the basement of City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road. The clerk's office is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Residents can also register to vote at any Secretary of State location.

The election is May 6.

Center

FROM PAGE 1

2005 announcement that the former Overhead Crane building had been acquired, the Wayne Road structure was expanded to 90,000 square feet, not including outdoor amenities. The facility covers an 11-acre parcel of land that was acquired by the city after the purchase of the old warehouse.

The center will be managed by Mechanicsville, Va.-based Rink Management, which will run all aspects of the facility.

Though the facility is not open, the management team is in place and working at the building. They are currently hiring more than

100 employees and selling memberships.

Rink also provides operational services for the Taylor Sportsplex, a nearby indoor recreational and sports activities facility in Taylor.

The facility, when it opens, will have a main gym, a teen gym, nautilus equipment, an Olympic-sized pool, a kiddie pool, a hot tub, a fountain-like pool, a one-tenth-mile track, a rock climbing wall, rest and relaxation areas, a banquet hall and meeting rooms.

Once open to the public, members of the recreation facility will walk into an apricot-colored lobby, followed by an exercise area with nautilus equipment. Immediately to the left is a series

of meeting rooms, and a gymnasium area with basketball courts. The center of the facility, on the main level, is a rock climbing area.

On the upper level, a half-mile indoor walking track covers at least half the building. A café is located on the upper level, along with a dance studio, and several meeting and exercise rooms.

Last Christmas, the facility was complete except for the swimming pools and some exterior landscaping.

Initially, city officials were hoping for a 2007 opening. However, backordered tiles for the swimming pool caused a significant delay, and the opening was pushed back to this year, Lambert said the

tile problem has been resolved – save for the paint thinner mishap – and the pool work is under way.

City officials are hoping for a earlier opening because they hope that facility membership fees cover the cost of the rink contract, employee salaries, and operational expenses related to the building.

Once the facility is open, most city recreational activities will move to the building, as opposed to area parks and schools, where most programming currently takes place.

The recreation center is now selling memberships. To learn more about the center or to purchase a membership, call (734) 942-2223.

Wait

FROM PAGE 1

Proponents of the Romulus and Port Huron casinos said during the hearings that they believe a casino in the city would have little effect on Detroit casinos, and Lambert reiterated that point yesterday.

Jobs are the main reason the casino is needed in the city. A casino development would bring at least one 200-room hotel and an additional restaurant and service businesses to cater to gamblers and travelers on site at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. It would bring about 3,000 jobs to Wayne County, and would provide a dedicated revenue stream for the city to the tune of \$4 to \$10 million

annually, according to city estimates.

The push for a casino began a little more than four years ago in December 2003, when a special election took place in the city to determine whether residents would support a gambling establishment near the airport.

Voters approved that measure decisively.

Once a vote on the bill is called

for, the full House will vote to support or reject the measure. If it is approved, it will have to move on to the U.S. Senate, where members will then vote.

If the measure fails in Congress, however, it will be difficult for the city and Indian tribes to resurrect.

Right now, city officials and residents are in a wait-and-see mode.

"We're being optimistic about it while we wait," Lambert said.

OPINION

ROMULUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
11121 Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174
1 (734) 942-7589

Airport master plan needs work - and cooperation

Officials in the City of Romulus have strenuously opposed a master plan proposed by the Wayne County Airport Authority—and with good reason.

The plan suggests a way to expand the airport and would be implemented if needed. It extends out to 2027 and it would be far too destructive to the city of Romulus at the expense of providing for a larger airport.

City officials have said that if the full expansion takes place, the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments would have to be demolished, along with 30 improved industrial buildings, 18

improved commercial buildings, the Halecreek subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School.

In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to city officials. Romulus could lose as many as 3,500 residents.

Romulus Community Schools would lose about \$1.7 million in revenue generated from businesses and residences in the area.

Ouch.

City officials are taking the appropriate steps in this process, voicing their opposition early and often. The concept of litigation has been mentioned, too, which would be a shame because it would mean a double hit against taxpayers—they'll essentially have to fund both sides of it.

Granted this will not take place for 20 years, if at all. It's still a significant threat to the city to start lining up the defenses now, though. It may still be early in this process, but we hope city officials stand tall on this. It's too much to be forced to give up.

Good neighbors, indeed

The approval of the Hindu Temple expansion in Canton Township was not quite as swift as some had predicted.

The township planning commission signed off on the expansion, which represents a \$5 million investment in the land near the corner of Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads on Monday night, but only after about two hours of discussion. Even then they seemed a bit reluctant, citing the excessively long and narrow site and the impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

Here's a little bit of advice: get used to it.

These kinds of developments will crop up more and more often in Canton and in other areas where vacant land is becoming more and more sparse and neighborhoods more and more prevalent. Township planners will have to increasingly walk the fine between listening to residents and protecting developmental property rights in the future.

In this case, they did a good job of fostering the spirit of cooperation between the homeowners and the developers—aided in large part by attorney Bryan Amann, who is very experienced with the developmental picture in Canton Township. He knows what needs to be done and how to make it happen. He also knows where the line is drawn and how to politely remind the commission not to cross it.

Through Amann, the temple officials promised to go above and beyond the township ordinances to help screen the structure from the neighborhood. The terms will be steeper and taller where it is practical. Additional trees will be a part of the landscape plan—to the point where you could nearly use the term 'reforest.'

In a way, that's a shame because screening the building from the neighborhood means it is also screened from the general public. And, even with its reduced architectural features, it is still a beautiful building and could have stood as a modern testament to the growing diversity in Canton Township.

The plan developed through the dialogue between the developers, residents and planners represents the best—and most practical—way to allow for the expansion of the temple. Everyone involved should be happy the system worked as well as it could. We'd also like to salute the temple leaders, who agreed to improvements that will add hundreds of thousands of dollars to their project.

It's more expensive, but better. And you can't put a price on being a good neighbor.



Spotlight is on theater property

It was no surprise that the Wayne City Council accepted the deed to the Historic Wayne Theater property on Tuesday night.

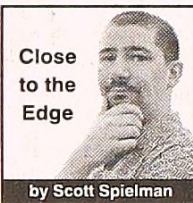
The best way to control what happens there is to own the land, after all, and this crucial piece of property needs to be in city control.

City officials probably realized when the offer was made, more than a year ago, to turn the property over to the city if fundraising efforts fell short that the 'gift' would be the proverbial white elephant—one they couldn't refuse and would quickly become too expensive to care for.

The question is, what happens to the property now? Well, anyone who attended the city planning commission meeting on Feb. 12 would tell you they intend to demolish the structure. It's curious how this plan has accelerated in recent weeks.

For more than a year, the city tried to help the theater board. They gave them a year to come up with the money to fix up the structure or get a financing plan in place to renovate it. They extended that deadline a couple of times and worked with ways to reduce the costs to bringing it to a 'white box' situation, essentially stripping it and making it ready for sale.

At the planning commission meeting, those estimated costs suddenly spiked from about \$50,000 to \$100,000. The orchestrated rebuttal to the concept of preserving the theater for redevelopment included pictures of crumbling foundations and tales of rats and exposed asbestos. The city report concluded that it was too expensive to fix and the land was more valuable without the theater on it.



Well, I suppose that depends on what goes there and that's where my underlying concern of this whole project is.

It pains me to say this, but I don't have a whole lot of faith that the city will come up with a suitable anchor for the downtown in its place. I haven't seen any proactive planning about what would be a good use for it, even though city officials probably knew more than a year ago that they would wind up with the property.

To me that means that we'll end up with something that meets city ordinances—barely. If it turns out I am wrong, I will gladly eat these words, but at the planning commission meetings I've attended, I haven't seen the political will to push for more than the lowest common denominator.

Liken me to the band that played stoically on while the frigid sea claimed the Titanic, but I still think the theater can be saved. The people who have tried to restore it have been a well-meaning bunch, but they're not professionals. With city officials behind the project—even if they gave it a fall deadline, since Downtown Development Authority (DDA) funds most likely won't be available until after July—they'll have more success.

If not, I want to see a very public process in planning for the future of this particular muddy lot. I want to see open bidding, public hearings and plenty of input from residents. And I want the city to reject proposals if they only get one or two. The last thing we need is the same kind of development from the same old people.

Enough snow already

I get jealous when the schools have a snow day.

At this point, I'm over the winter season. The thrill of the first initial snowfall is gone, Christmas and the holidays have come and passed and my shoes—quite frankly—just can't take anymore salt.

When I wake up in the morning and peek out my window to see yet another white day, I just want to take a big ol' nap (yes even though I just woke up).

In the work world, employees never receive the word at 4 a.m. that we don't have to schlep into the office that day because the roads are simply too unsafe. It just doesn't happen. We go to work each and every workday, snowstorms and all.

In the Van Buren Public School District, however, their highest property when deciding to have a snow day is the safety of transportation for the children, according to officials.

Many parents have questioned what factors determine a snow day, particularly with this year's winter weather. The severity of a storm, whether it will occur during bus runs, the amount of snow and how icy the roads are all come into play, administrators said.

Three sources of radar are checked, the Wayne County Road Commission reports are used and from about 2:30 a.m. on, school officials start checking the roads. It's more than likely with the Belleville area's many dirt roads that school will be canceled if a snowflake drops.

Many parents are upset about all the recent school snow days because of the number of classes students are missing. Some even feel alternative bus routes should be in place in these situations.

When I think back to my own school days, yes of course as a student, I loved a day of making snowmen and angels, instead of tests and quizzes. However, as an adult, I can see the parents' viewpoint.

For schools, the snow day limit per year is 30 hours—which equals five days—before April 1. So far in Van Buren, there have been six snow days,



See **Snow**, page 6

Teams gearing up for 'March Madness'

Puxatony Phil saw his shadow early this month, meaning it will be cold for at least six more weeks.

It's not like it wouldn't be otherwise, but thanks anyway Phil.

But that doesn't mean things won't be heating up on the basketball court over the next couple of weeks as Journal-area teams start or ready for district play on the road to March Magic—the high school equivalent to the NCAA March Madness.

Well, there is definitely madness in this forecast.

This is the first time that both the girls and boys teams are competing simultaneously through the state tournament. Up until this season the girls played in the fall and the boys in the winter. The girls started this week—a week ahead of the boys. That offers some leeway for fans, referees and reporters. Things get tricky when the girls start regional play next week (Tuesday and Thursday) as the boys take to the courts for districts (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

A game every night of the week? Crazy! Madness!

I'm no Phil but I'm willing to go out in the cold and predict who will get an early break and who gets to endure the longer season. In Phil's case spring is officially here in six weeks regardless of his shadow sighting or not. From the cheap seats perspective, anything is possible and nothing is guaranteed.

The girls will be a little more difficult since they started this week and are already gearing up for their respective district championship games on Friday—this was written almost a week ago—so bear with me.

The Journal teams are split into three districts.

In Class A District 15 at Wayne Memorial, look for the final to be between Romulus and John Glenn. Glenn had its bumps during the season and Romulus will take advantage and come out on top. Don't count

out Belleville if they made it past Romulus on the first round on Monday.

Salem is likely to make it to the final on Friday against host Ladywood in Class A District 25. Ladywood is tough but the Lady Rocks showed grit last week with a last second win over Walled Lake Western for the Western Lakes crown and will ride the momentum for the district title. Plus, Salem was unstoppable through the regular season.

Class B District 39 host Divine Child is a big time competitor that beat Inkster by 20-plus points at the beginning of the season. Never count out the Lady Vikes, though. They do have Victoria McGowan—one of the best guards in the state. She is the difference-maker and will lead Inkster to a district championship.

The best boys basketball play can be found at Wayne Memorial, starting on Monday in Class A District 15. It's a shame that four of the state's best teams—Romulus, Wayne, John Glenn and Belleville—have to face each other. Only one can survive. Romulus can easily go 12 deep with viable production from every single player. Look for the Eagles to play John Glenn for the championship. The game will go into overtime with Dominique Buckley—one of the four nominees for Mr. Basketball honors—hitting the winning shot for Romulus. No pressure, there but he's done it before.

Northville has a history of losing in the first round of district play but shows the most promise for District 25 competition. The Mustangs are hot right now but will have to face Novi and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Inkster is the clear favorite for Class B District 39. The Vikings looked good all season under the guidance



See **Madness**, page 6

JOURNAL

NEWSPAPERS



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Snow

FROM PAGE 5

which means a district make-up day will take place the Friday before Memorial Day.

Snow isn't the only reason schools close either. According to officials, power outages,

water main breaks and muddy roads have also caused school closures in the past. Those conditions are reset for days off in April, though, to take into account the spring weather conditions.

I suppose while overall it may seem like students have missed a lot of school lately, in the end it's always better to be safe than sorry. Especially, during these long Michigan winters.

Madness

FROM PAGE 5

of first-year head coach Durand Shepherd.

Take that Phil. It doesn't take a shadow or even any skill to predict something. The thing is, be it about seasons or high school

basketball, nobody knows what will happen.

Any team can win on any given night—just ask any coach of any sport at any level.

Right or wrong I just hope to see some good games in the next couple of weeks and see February Fever turn into March Magic for someone.

Good luck to all from the Cheap Seats!

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Romulus Housing Commission will receive sealed bids at their office, until 4:00 p.m. local time, on the 13th. day of March, 2008, at which time they will publicly open and read aloud. The scope of work includes, but is not limited to: Removal, replacement and painting of entry doors and screen doors, door frames, door trim, and the painting of same dwelling unit interiors. Bid documents are desired for total construction of the work. Specifications and drawings can be obtained at the offices of James Childs Architects, 929 Lincolnway East, South Bend, Indiana starting at 12:00 p.m. on February 11, 2008. Telephone number (574) 288-2052.

The architect will be available to accompany bidders starting at 2:00 p.m. local time, on February 28, at the office of Romulus Housing Commission, 34200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan. Interested parties should call the business office of James Childs Architects at (574) 288-2052 to confirm attendance.

Publish: February 21, 2008
February 28, 2008
March 3, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-091-01-0006-000, also known as 43308 East Huron River Drive. The property is located on the north side of East Huron River Drive, between Martinsville Road and Haggerty Road.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren R-1C (Single Family Residential) Zoning District. The applicants, Michael & Audrey Hanzlian, are requesting a variance from the 15-foot setback between accessory buildings and the principal structure, to construct an addition the existing house.

Approval of this application as submitted would require the following variance from the Zoning Ordinance standards:

ARTICLE XVII, SECTION 4.14, B. 4. c. DETACHED ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, SETBACKS.

*15-foot setback from principal structure required
10-foot setback from principal structure requested
5-foot accessory building setback variance requested*

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 21, 2008
Publish: February 21, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE 2008 BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

Meeting dates are as follows:

March 10 & 12, 2008: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
March 11 & 13, 2008: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

ALL appeals may be made by (1) submitting a written appeal with documentation substantiating the over-assessment claim attached OR (2) making an appointment to appear before the Board.

The Board of Review **MUST** receive all written appeals and supporting documentation no later than March 13, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents **MUST** submit (current) proof of authorization with original, notarized signatures to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call the City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: February 21, 2008
February 28, 2008
March 6, 2008

Watch for daily news updates on our website
www.journalgroup.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTICE

The Department of Community Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all township cemeteries.

Spring cleaning will begin March 1, 2008 and run through March 15, 2008

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by February 29, 2008

New items may be displayed beginning March 16, 2008

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:
Denton (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
Soop (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)
Tyler (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
Otisville (Riggs Road)

For additional information contact
Leader Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8925 ext. 9228

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: February 21, 2008

BOARD OF REVIEW - CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN FOR 2008 ASSESSMENTS

**NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, on the following dates:

March 4, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
(Organizational Meeting)

March 10, Monday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 12, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 13, Thursday
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To review property assessments for 2008. Taxpayers/property owners may file an appeal of assessment(s) to the Board of Review in **WRITING** without personal appearance. **Letters of appeal must be received on or before March 14, 2008.**

Those taxpayers wishing to **appeal in person must call the Township by March 13, 2008** at 734.699.8946 to set an **APPOINTMENT** to meet with the Board of Review on any of the above dates.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: February 21, 2008
February 28, 2008
March 6, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Attorney McCauley, Secretary Cline and no audience was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VOUCHER LIST: None.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

CLOSED SESSION: To be held in the Board of Trustee Conference Room to discuss pending litigation, case number #06-605026-CH.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adjourn to Closed Session to discuss pending litigation, case number #06-605026-CH. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Payne, Jahr, Budd, Hart, Clair, Rochowiak and King. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

There being no further discussion, the Special Board Meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 3:04 p.m. The Special Board Meeting was reconvened at 3:21 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Clair seconded to approve the attorney's recommendation regarding pending litigation in case #06-605026-CH and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute appropriate documents. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Clair, Payne, Hart, Budd, Rochowiak and King. Nays: Jahr. Absent: None. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Payne moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 3:26 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: February 21, 2008

SPORTS

Rockets topple ‘Stangs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

John Glenn continued to do what they do best last week—win.

The Rockets blasted Plymouth and held off Northville for the second time in two weeks to head into the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game at home on Thursday against archrival Wayne.

The first time that John Glenn and Northville met—just more than a week ago—the Mustangs out-rebounded the Rockets and put up a pretty good fight. This time, it looked like Glenn vowed to never let that happen again.

The Rockets dominated the boards 45-21 on Friday and only allowed Northville three offensive rebounds. Northville still put up a pretty good fight but Glenn came out on top, 55-39.

“We came out with a lot of energy,” said Glenn Coach Dan Young. “They played us really tough defensively last time but we thought we would do better against their zone defense by playing better defense, rebounding better and creating some stuff in transition.”

Glenn senior Earl Hardison deflated Northville’s hopes of its third straight conference championship when he dropped a three-point dagger for a 27-17 advantage with one second left in the first half.

Northville never recovered. Northville senior Dan Kirkpatrick sank a pair and added a basket to bring the Mustangs to within six, 27-21, in the third frame but that’s as close as they would come the rest of the way. Glenn’s Stefan Marken answered with a signature triple and answered Mustang Steve Anderson’s basket

with an off-balance triple off of the glass for a 33-23 lead. Hardison and Daris Smith each added a triple to help Glenn to a 41-26 lead after three.

The Rockets outscored Northville 14-13 in the final stanza for the victory.

Northville Coach Darrell Schumacher was pleased with the defensive effort, holding Glenn to one point less than the first time the teams met.

“I thought we were aggressive with the ball,” he said. “We just couldn’t make our shots.”

Northville struggled from the line and only hit 6-of-17 free throws compared to Glenn’s 12-of-14.

Hardison led all scorers with 16 points. Marken added 11 and Austin Anderson scored 10. Martin finished with nine.

Northville failed to get anyone into double digits. Kirkpatrick led the team with nine and seven rebounds. Kyle Asher added eight points.

Northville (11-8) plays for third place in the conference against Churchill (11-8) at 5:30 pm on Thursday at John Glenn.

Glenn (18-1) battles cross-town rival Wayne Memorial (17-2) for the conference championship at 7 p.m. at Glenn.

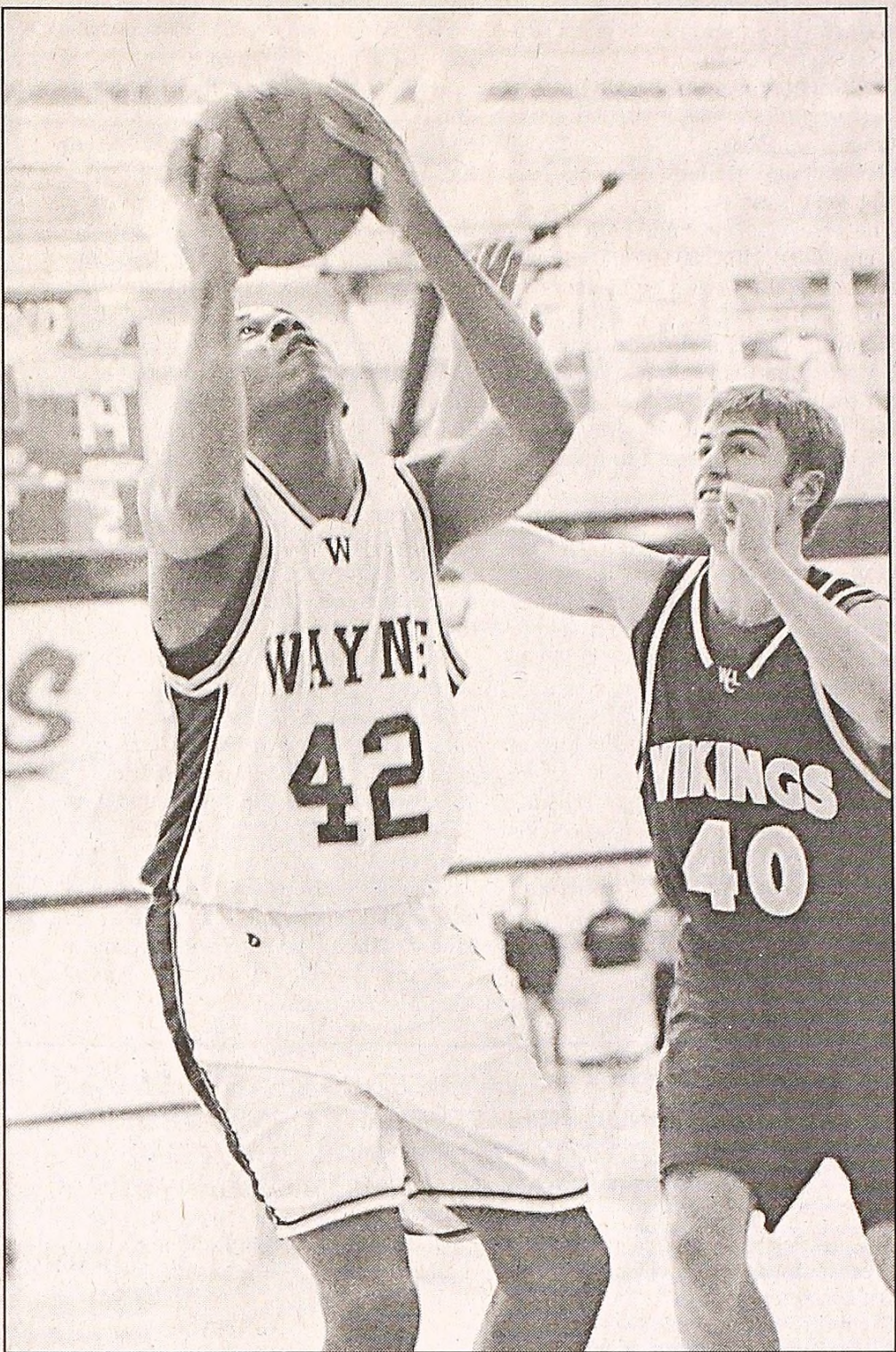
“They are a very high-powered group,” Young said about Wayne. “They come at you from all angles. They’ve improved since the first time that we played them but so have we. It’s huge game and it will be fun to watch.”

Next week starts the district playoffs. Northville has a bye on Monday and will play the winner of the Novi-Canton game at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Novi High School.

Glenn has a bye on Monday, too, but plays the winner of the Wayne-Garden City contest at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Wayne Memorial.



Northville’s Greg Hasse goes up for a shot against host John Glenn on Friday in the second round of the Western Lakes conference playoffs. The Rockets won the game, 55-39, and host Wayne Memorial for the championship game at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Photo submitted by Lynn Kirkpatrick



Wayne sophomore Daniel Hill nabs a rebound against visiting Walled Lake Central in the first round of Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs last Tuesday. The Zebras won the game, 50-34. Wayne beat visiting Churchill, 75-50, in the second round on Friday and will play for the conference championship against host John Glenn at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Photo by Jeff Novak

Zebras head to championship

The Wayne Memorial Zebras earned their way into the Western Lakes championship game with big wins over Walled Lake Central and Churchill last week.

The team is now a whopping 17-2 overall and faces cross-town rival and host John Glenn (18-1) at 7 p.m. on Thursday for the championship showdown.

Above, sophomore Daniel Hill goes up for a layup against a Walled Lake Central defender last Tuesday in the Zebras’ 50-34 victory. It was a slow start for the Wayne but the Zebras took a 20-17 lead into the

locker room at the half. Senior Martez Abney had three points in the first half but scored 11 in the second to lead his Zebras to the victory. Abney repeated as the team high scorer when he knocked down 20 against Churchill on Friday. Wayne won the contest, 75-50.

Wayne starts district play next week. Wayne hosts Garden City at 7 p.m. on Monday. The winner of that game faces John Glenn at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The district championship bout is set for 7 p.m. on Friday at Wayne Memorial.

Lady Rocks win WLAA championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It was a long time in the making, but the Salem Lady Rocks won their first Western Lakes championship since 2004 when they put away Walled Lake Western, 38-36, last Thursday.

The win was anything but easy. Salem trailed the Warriors, 36-35, with less than two seconds on the clock. Then well-covered senior Alaya Mitchell let loose a 15-footer that found its way into the hoop while she was fouled. She sank the free throw to put Salem up 38-36 for the

win. The Lady Warriors couldn’t get a final shot off in the last tick and half of the clock. Mitchell finished with 11 points. Teammate and fellow senior Chelsea Davis led the team with 16 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore Sarah Stone added nine points and 10 rebounds in the effort. Salem finished the season with an 18-2 record and plenty of momentum heading into this week’s Class A district competition at Livonia Ladywood. The Lady Rocks battled cross-campus rival Plymouth on Monday night in the opening round of districts.

Belleville struggles in 2 losses

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Shorthanded Belleville lost two straight last week, knocking them out of contention for the conference crown.

Belleville suffered a 56-50 loss to Southgate last Tuesday.

The good news was Booker Stoudmire, the team’s leading scorer and quiet leader was back in the lineup after recovering from a concussion he suffered two weeks ago. He led the team in scoring with 17 points.

“Southgate jumped out on us early,” said Belleville Coach Don Hickman. “We battled the whole game, but could never really get things going.”

The bad news was Stoudmire was back on the injured list for Thursday’s game against neighboring rival Ypsilanti. The Tigers had a terribly slow start and fell to the Phoenix, 59-32.

Kyle Gup-ton, the team’s second leading

scorer, was out sick. Without their top two guys, the Tigers struggled to get the offense going. Ypsilanti took advantage of the situation and stormed to a 31-6 half-time advantage. Ypsi never looked back. Ricky love and Vinnie Boyd scored seven points each for Belleville. Ypsilanti’s Marvon Sanders scored 17. “The biggest thing is we haven’t been healthy,” Hickman said. “We haven’t been able to play our regular starting lineup for about five weeks or so. It’s not an excuse, just the facts.”

Belleville wraps up conference play this week. The Tigers hosted conference champs Romulus on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. As of last week Romulus was undefeated, 10-0, in the Mega Red. Belleville hosts Monroe at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Belleville starts districts on Monday with a rematch with Ypsilanti at 5:30 pm at Wayne Memorial High School.



Canton junior forward Trent Taylor drives to Franklin’s net on Wednesday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton Township. Franklin overcame Canton’s two-goal lead to win the contest, 4-3. Photo by Jeff Novak

Canton falls to Franklin Patriots

The Canton hockey team’s early lead didn’t last against the Franklin Patriots last week and the Chiefs fell, 4-3.

Junior forward Zac Haar got things rolling for the Chiefs with a full-strength goal with 7:43 to go in the first period. Junior forward Mark Barath and sophomore defender Jason Avedesian assisted on the play.

Junior forward Nick Tomilenko made it a 2-0 game in favor of Canton when he scored with 5:14 left in the first. Senior defender Joe Majszak helped on the play.

Franklin bounced back with four unan-

swered goals. The Pats scored two in the second period to knot things up, 2-2. Then sophomore defender Dalton Pennington scored less than two minutes into the third to make it a 3-2 game for Franklin. Senior forward Dave Muller made it a two-point game when he put the fourth goal by Canton junior goalie Zane Birchler. Canton got one back when junior forward Ryan Lash scored with 4:27 left to play. The Chiefs had a power-play opportunity with 3:51 left in the game, but couldn’t find the equalizer.

SPORTS

Country Day upsets Romulus

Jeff Novak
 Staff Writer

It doesn't happen too often, but the Romulus Eagles had a bad day on Friday—actually they just ran into a really good Country Day team.

Senior guard Darnell Brown drained a triple with 1.5 seconds left to play, giving Country Day—the No. 1 team in Class B—a 60-59 victory over host Romulus—the No. 3 team in Class A.

The Yellowjackets came back from a 10-point deficit with 3:30 left in the fourth quarter to end the Eagles' eight-game win streak.

Romulus had a stellar third frame. The Eagles limited Country Day to just eight points. Junior guard Rashard Porter put Romulus up by nine, 48-39, when he sank a triple at the quarter's buzzer.

Senior forward Will Clyburn upped the lead, 51-41, when he drained a triple at the top of the fourth round. The teams traded baskets but the Eagles maintained the 10-point lead with a bucket by senior forward Devin Pankey with 3:30 left to play. After that Country Day went on a 12-2 run and tied the game at 57 when junior forward Bennie Fowler sank a basket with 15 seconds left.

Romulus senior Dominique Buckley hit two from the line with seven seconds left, giving his Eagles a 59-57 advantage. But Country Day rushed upcourt and Brown dumped in the winning triple.

"That's a game you have to win—bottom line," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "To me it wasn't an effort thing. I thought

we played hard, dug up some loose balls. "We had some defensive mistakes that we should never have had," he added. "It was a mental thing in the last two minutes, which falls on the coach. We obviously didn't do a good enough job preparing them for the last two minutes."

Romulus turned the ball over on a traveling call, a failed three-point attempt and made a bad pass in the final 1:30. The last turnover led to Fowler's tying layup.

Oats said there might me a positive in the loss.

"Not that I ever like losing, but sometimes with a loss you learn a lot more than with a win," he said. "If it makes us refocus then it will be good for us."

Pankey and Clyburn each scored 11 for Romulus. Senior guard Laron Rogers added 10.

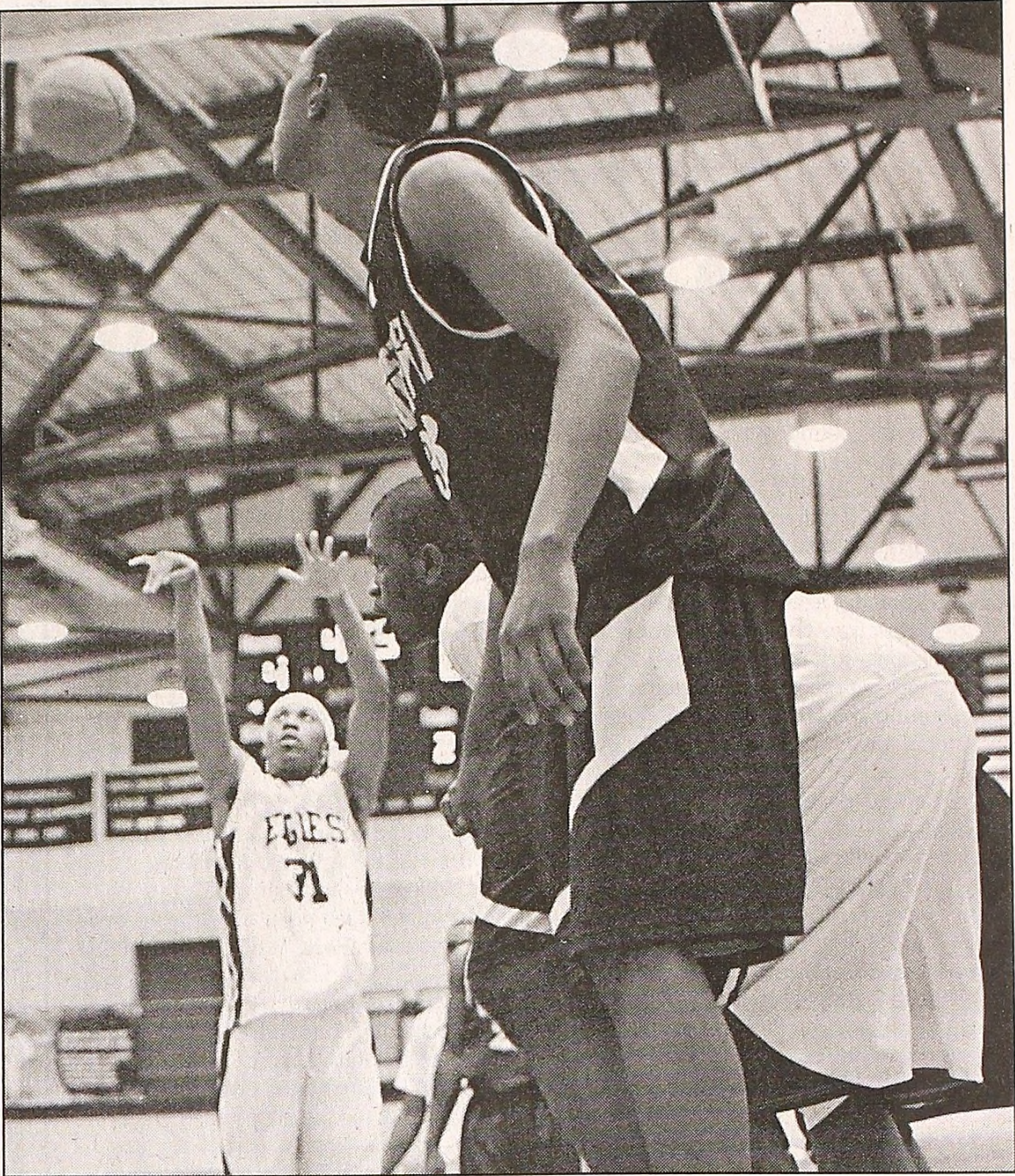
Brown led all scorers with 19 points for Country Day. Junior forward Donnavan Kirk added 13.

Although Romulus already wrapped up the conference title last week, Oats' immediate goal is to win out the Mega Red, 12-0.

Romulus has two tough conference opponents standing in it's way this week. Belleville hosted the Eagles on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. Ypsilanti visits at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Belleville was the last team that went undefeated in the conference five years ago.

Romulus gets a bye in the first round of district play on Monday and will play the winner of the Belleville-Ypsilanti game at 5:30 pm on Wednesday at Wayne Memorial High school.



Romulus senior forward Devin Pankey shoots a free throw in the first quarter against visiting Country Day on Friday. Romulus lost the game, 60-59, in the final seconds. Photo by Jeff Novak

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 4, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Excused: William Crova
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
 Alan Lambert, Mayor
 Linda R. Choate, Clerk

1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-022

2. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 28, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear.
 Nays - None.
 Abstain - Wadsworth.
 Motion Carried.

08-023

3A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to adopt a resolution for the endorsement letter of support with a one (1) year tax abatement during construction to the Jay Kay Investment, LLC., in the Wayne County Land Bank Corporation TURBO Program for its' proposed rehabilitation of the existing building with a construction cost of approximately \$250,000 located at 38000 Jay Kay Drive, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-024

4A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported Burcroff to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Theresa Washington.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-025

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of James Haslip, former Romulus Fire Chief.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-026

4C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Charlotte Huby.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-027

4D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Derek Greca.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-028

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Carol Mayerich, Director of Human Resources/Labor Relations and authorize the City of Romulus to offer an additional 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan, AXA Equitable, to the City's current Pension Plan Offerings.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-029

5B. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Randy McMahan, Building & Safety Director and award bid 07/08-07, demolition list 06-01 to the lowest bidder, Oakwood Building Company in the amount of \$19,900.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-030

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Tom Wilson, DPW Director and legal counsel to authorize the City of Romulus representative (DPW Director) to Vote "qualified approval with changes" of the January 10, 2008 Detroit Water and Sewer Department Model Contract.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

5D. ****Item Deleted**.**

08-031

5E. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to appoint Debra Hoffman, Carol Mayerich, John Leacher, Felicia Brantley, and Patsy Cantrell to the City of Romulus Healthcare Benefit Committee, in accordance with the Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Numbers 43 and 45, with terms to expire on November 9, 2009.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-032

FUND/DEPT.	ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
State Narcotic Forfeiture Fund					
<u>Expense</u>					
268-3720-738.73-05	Operating Supplies	200,000	80,000	280,000	
<u>Fund Balance</u>					
268-0000-390.000	Fund Balance	124,031	(80,000)	44,031	

To pay the Wayne County Prosecutor on legal forfeiture seizures and to fund additional covert law enforcement activity for our local police department.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-033

6A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout recognizing March 4, 2008 as Constitution Celebration Day in the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-034

6A2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to approve second reading and final adoption of budget amendment 07/08-19, introduced at the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 28, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-035

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to schedule a Study Session on February 11, 2008 at 5:45 p.m., to be held in the Romulus City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, to discuss the proposed Detroit Metro Airport master Plan and the City's proposed Response and Action Plan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-036

6A4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to schedule a Study Session on February 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., to be held in the Romulus City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, to discuss a proposal by the Great Lakes Recycling Company to construct a recycling facility in the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
 Nays - None.
 Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on February 4, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
 City of Romulus, Michigan

Whalers split weekend, swat Sting on Saturday

Ranger Mikkel Boedker scored a pair of third period goals to defeat host Plymouth Whalers, 2-1 on Saturday night.

Kitchener—the top team in the Ontario Hockey League and the number-one-ranked team in the 62-team Canadian Hockey League—improved its already impressive record to a league best 43-9-1-2.

Plymouth gave Kitchener all they could handle over the final two periods and is now 31-22-2-2, good for 66 points.

Chris Terry scored the lone Whaler goal (his team-leading 37th of the year) in the third period.

The game was scoreless through the first two periods and was a goaltender's battle between Plymouth's Jeremy Smith and Kitchener's Josh Unice. Smith emerged as the game's first star in the defeat, stopping 36-of-38 shots—13 in the first period. Unice was the game's second star, stopping 23-of-24 shots. Boedker was the game's third star with two goals.

Boedker gave Kitchener a 1-0 lead at 3:05 when he deflected the puck past Smith. The Whalers tied the game at 1-1 at 5:12 of the period on a power play with Terry's one-timer from the left wing on an empty Kitchener net off of a rebound from Brett Bellemore's shot.

Boedker scored the game-winner at 8:16 of the third period. Smith got most of the shot, but it trickled over the goal line.

Kitchener outshot Plymouth, 38-24.

Plymouth had better luck earlier in the week when the Whalers beat host Saginaw, 4-2, on Friday.

Veteran Joe McCann scored a power play goal and an assist as the game's first star.

It was the Whalers second straight victory and improved to 31-21-2-2, good for 66 points and third

place in the OHL West. Plymouth is the fifth seed in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race. Saginaw is now 26-22-4-2, good for 58 points and fifth place in the OHL West. The Spirit has the eighth and final playoff seed in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race.

Patrick Lee scored his 10th of the year; Andrew Fournier his 32nd; and RJ Mahalak 2nd scored for Plymouth. Adam Comrie and Chris Chappell replied for Saginaw.

Plymouth won the battle of special teams, going 2-for-5 on the power play, scoring a short-handed goal and killing off all five Saginaw power plays.

Plymouth played the game without suspended defensemen Leo Jenner and Jozef Sladok and injured defenseman Josh Bemis. To fill the vacancies on the blue line, the Whalers called up Anthony Donati from the London Jr.Knights and utilized McCann on defense. In addition, the Whalers were without right wing Ryan Hayes and head coach Greg Stefan, both suspended Feb. 10 due to fighting in the Whalers' 7-4 loss in Kingston.

Sladok and Hayes returned against Kitchener. The OHL Office suspended Stefan for eight games and is expected back March 2 against Saginaw.

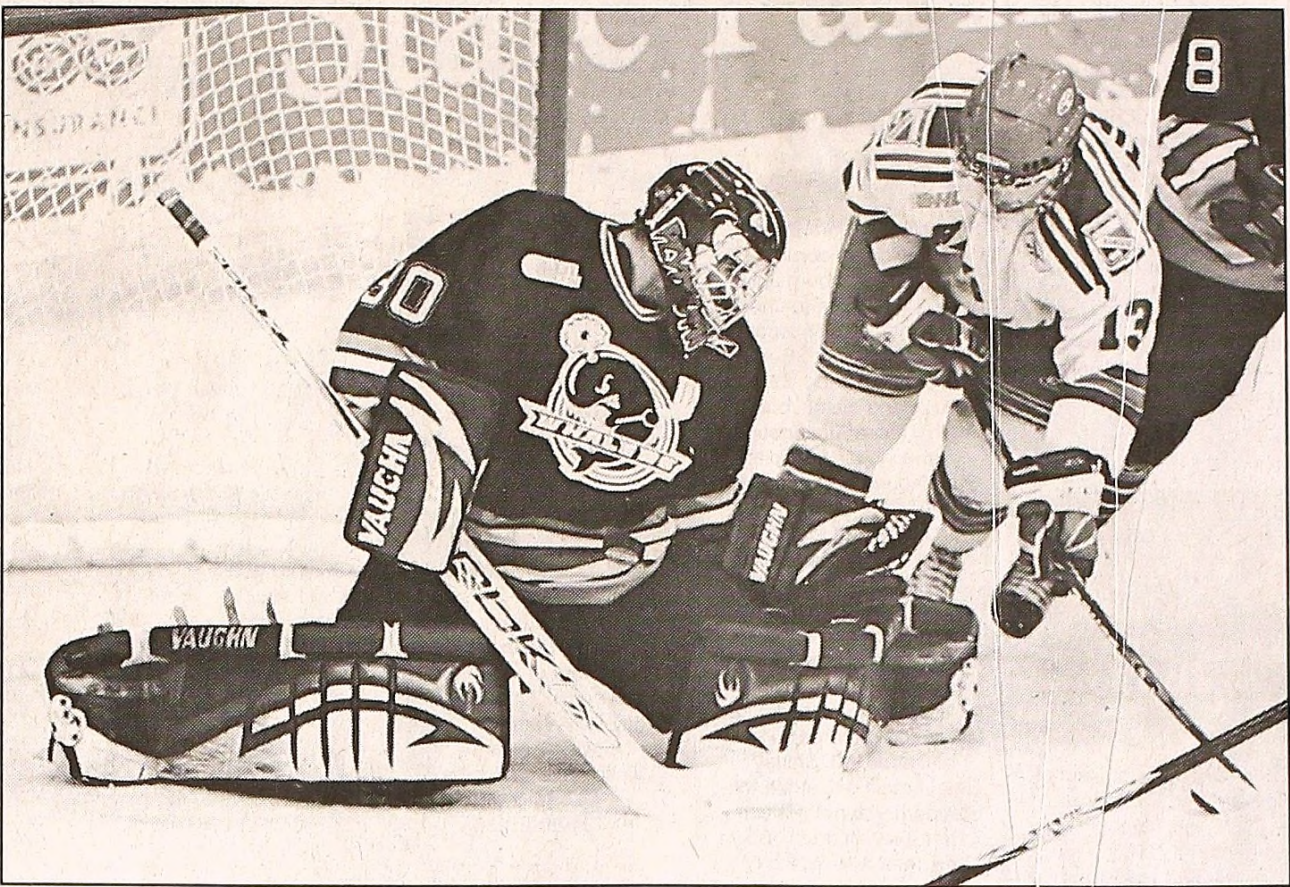
In the meantime, Plymouth assistant coaches Joe Stefan (Greg's brother) and Brian Sommariva are behind the Plymouth bench.

The Whalers beat the visiting Sarnia Sting, 3-1, last Wednesday

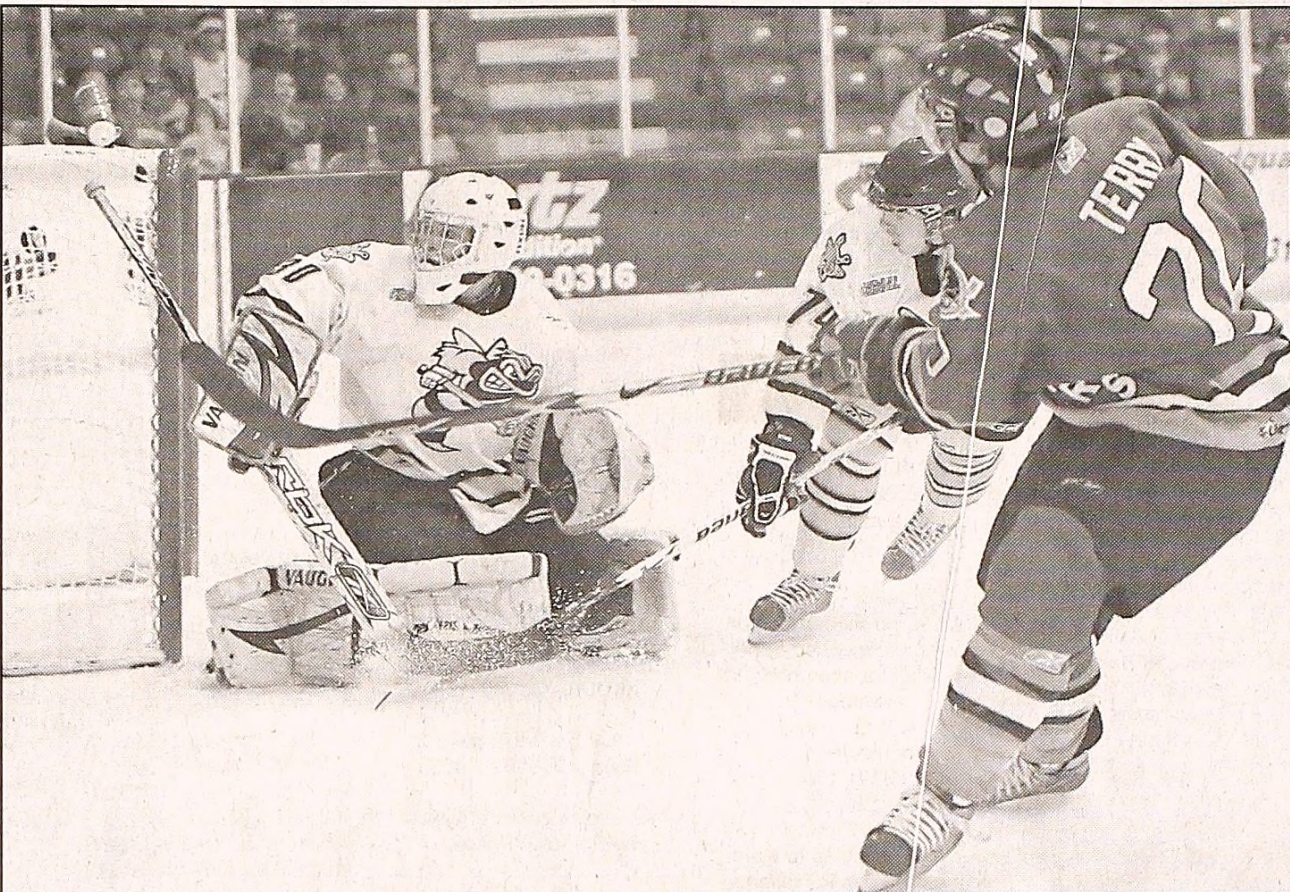
AJ Jenks, Terry and Joe Gaynor all scored for the Whalers. Vern Cooper chipped in two assists.

Steve Stamkos scored the lone Sting score—his 43rd of the season.

Plymouth is at Windsor on Thursday, hosts Brampton at 7:05 pm on Friday and Sault Ste. Marie at 7:05 pm on Saturday.



Plymouth goaltender Jeremy Smith makes one of his 36 saves Saturday night in the Whalers' 2-1 loss to Kitchener at Compuware Arena. Photo by Rena Laverty



Plymouth's Chris Terry scores the game-winning goal late against Sarnia goaltender Tomi Karhunen and defenseman is Joe Rogalski in the second period of the Whalers' 3-1 victory over Sarnia at Compuware Arena on Wednesday. Photo by Rena Laverty

CLASSIFIED

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02. In Memoriam	32. Help Wanted Drivers	54. Rummage Sales	65. Tree Service	82. Wanted to Buy	99. Flats for Rent	111. Out of State Property
03. Cards of Thanks	33. Child Care	55. Estate Sales	66. Landscape / Nurseries	87. Room for Rent	100. Will Share	112. Commercial Lease
04. Monuments	34. Specialized Services	56. Flea Markets	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	88. Duplexes for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	113. Real Estate Wanted
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05. Personals/Announcements	40. Business Opportunity	58. Garage and Yard Sales	70. Masonry / Brickwork	90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	115. Autos for Sale
06. Legal Notices	42. Health and Fitness	59. Auctions	72. Cleaning Services	92. Business Places for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	116. Antique & Classic Cars
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08. Entertainment	44. Music/Art Lessons	61. Misc. Items	74. Sporting Goods	94. Farm Land for Rent	106. Houses for Sale	118. Freebies
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10. Coming Events	46. Private Schools/Instruction	63. Business and Office Equipment	76. Remodeling & Renovations	96. Houses for Rent	108. Lake and Resort	120. Motorcycles
30. Help Wanted	47. Riding/Horses/Stables		77. Recreation Vehicles	97. Cottages for Rent	109. Income Property	121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



ALLISON-HARDY, Joe Ann, age 62, died January 29, 2008. She was born November 27, 1945. She leaves to cherish her memory, five children: Anthony R. Hardy of Garden City, MI, Antoinette R. Hardy of Wayne, MI, Heather M. Hardy of Westland, MI and Brandy N. Hardy and Ashley Hardy of Inkster, MI; five sisters, Linda Faye Allison of Belleville, MI, Terry Lynn Allison of Westland, MI, Nikita Marie Allison of Romulus, MI, Gwen McGhee and Sarah Kuykendall of Inkster, MI; her brother, Paul Allison of Inkster, MI; her precious jewels, eight grandchildren; three sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; seven aunts; four uncles; a special friend, Herman "Bam" Wilder and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at the Romulus Community Baptist Church with Rev. Hiram McBurrows officiating. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



BERRY, Peggy Ann, age 70, died February 3, 2008. She was born May 6, 1937. Peggy leaves to mourn her passing and cherish her memory two brothers, Haywood Noyd Jr. (May) and Harvey Noyd (Shirley); her sister, Minnie Johnson (Herbert); two nieces and three nephews; a very close friend, Barbara Morton, and a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at the Penn Funeral Home. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

DRUYOR, Robert E. Jr. Age 51 of Romulus. February 18, 2008. Beloved Husband of Teresa. Loving Father of Robert (Rachael) Druyor, Nicholas Druyor and Briana Camp. Dearest son of Lysbeth, and the late Robert Druyor Sr. Dear brother of Marilyn (Mike) Birmingham, Sylvia Druyor, and David P. (Doreen Savage) Druyor. Visitation will be held Thursday 2-7 p.m. at the Voran Funeral Home 23750 Goddard Rd(Taylor), with the service to follow at 7pm at the funeral home. Please visit our OnLine Guestbook at www.voranfuneralhome.com.



ELLIS, Bertha May, died January 29, 2008. She leaves to cherish her memory, her loving sisters, Cora Virginia Weston and Zetta Anderson; her devoted children, Lawrence (Rose), Philip (Roeadienna), Teri (Christopher) and Joseph III; grandchildren, LaToya, Monet, Kenneth, Philicia and Lawrence Jr.; great grandchildren, Delquante, TyKen, Cortez, Bre-anna and Nicolas; she was preceded in death by her grandchild, Bianca. Services were held at Penn Funeral home with pastor Michael McClelland officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



EMBRY, Jordan Addison Jr. "Sonnie", age 78, died January 31, 2008 after a lengthy illness. He was born February 23, 1929. He was preceded in death by his son, Jordan Embry III, his brother Donald Embry, and

his sister, Dorothy McMillan. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife, Jennie; children, Bridgett Embry and Brent (Marie) Embry; sister, Sallie Embry; brothers, Edmond (Ivaola) Fyfe and Joseph Fyfe; grandchildren, Irvin Posey, Brandon Posey, Jorvonna Embry, Brittiny Embry, Jordan Embry and Cecelia Embry; great grandchildren, Jasmine Cobb and Shekinah Posey; step-granddaughters, Michelea Brown, Andrea Brown and Arielle Forts; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Bishop Charles Cobb Sr. officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



FAUST, Tillman (Mr. Book), age 81, died January 29, 2008. He was born November 11, 1926. He leaves to cherish his memory, his children, Marie Louise Wesley, Ozona Marie Renfroe, Anthony Powell, Lexie Powell and Tillman Jr.; sister, Isabell Glover; two wonderful sons-in-law, Benny Wesley and Calvin Sneed; a nephew, James Faust "Boochie"; grandchildren, Dina James, Quanelle Dijkason, Marnique Boyd,

Daniel and Kamani Renfroe; 14 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Stevens officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



JACQUES, Betty Kay Carter, age 65, died February 3, 2008. She was born June 29, 1942. She leaves to cherish her memory, seven children, James (Suzanne), Stacey (Timothy), Peter, Gina, Margo, Arthur Sr. (Regina) and Tracy; sisters, Mary, Tennie (Bobby) and Adonna; brother, Jerry; aunt, Zelda Foster; grandchildren, Shareia, Patrice (Robert), Durand, Brandon, Sharice, Duron, Cassandra, Alisa, Michael, Erica, Alexander, Arthur Jr., Deirdre, Nicholas, Ashley, Madisyn and Elijah; 7 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, Diana, Michael, Tina, Adrienne, Leah, Alicia, Rhonda, Kevin and Danielle; special friends, Carla, Sara, Dorothy, Evelyn, Michael and Marie and a host of cousins, other relatives and friends. Services were held at Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Sr. officiating. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery,

Romulus, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

KAULITZ, Dale Edward, age 86 of Fort Myers, FL, died February 12, 2008. Mr. Kaulitz was the former superintendent of Van Buren Public Schools. He was born January 9, 1922 in Detroit and grew up in Lansing, MI, and graduated from Michigan State University in 1943. He served as an officer in the US Army during WWII and as superintendent of schools in a number of Michigan school districts before retiring to Fort Myers in 1986. Mr. Kaulitz was predeceased by his parents Gladys and Herman Kaulitz, his brother

Lt. Ronald J. Kaulitz, who was killed in action in Belgium in 1945, former wife Marion Louise Kaulitz, and granddaughter Sara Vibber. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Phyllis Kaulitz, son Dale Jr., daughters Nancy Farris (John), Barbara Puthuff (Dennis) and Carole Vibber (Mitchell), and by seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The family requests that memorial donations in his name be made to Hope hospice, 9470 Health Park Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908, or to the Animal Refuge Center, P.O. Box 6642, Fort Myers, FL 33911.

Funeral DIRECTORY

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MISCOVICH, Leon V., age 77 of Wayne, died on February 13, 2008 at home with his family at his bedside. Dear husband of Geraldine for 55 years. Loving father of Richard (Patricia), James (Polly), Kathleen (Bill) Rains and Michael (Lisa). Dearest grandfather of Jennifer, Natalie, Mathew and Robin; and great grandfather of James and Aubrianna. Funeral Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne. Private services were held by the family.



ROBINSON, Vincent Darnell, age 44, died February 2, 2008. He was born November 6, 1963. One beautiful and precious angel, Kelley Michelle preceded his death. His spirit will always be a part of us. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Sherry Robinson; five daughters, Erika, Carmichael, Bianca, Dominique and Danielle; two sons, Vincent Jr. and Joshua; one grandson, Darnell Christopher; mother, Walta Robinson; sister, Nicole (Ed) Scott; brother, Stevie; grandmothers, Ruth Wimberly and Irene Robinson; aunts, Loretta Williams, Lorene Robinson and Maxine Robinson, all of Inkster, MI; uncles, Odis Robertson, Michael Robinson, Joseph Robinson and John Robinson, all of Inkster, MI; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Services were held at New Birth Baptist Church, Inkster, MI, with Pastor Joseph A. Stephens officiating. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery, Romulus, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



WARREN, James S., age 65, died February 5, 2008. He was born March 12, 1942. Jimmie was preceded in death by his father and mother, James and Pearlina Warren; sister, Linda Warren and stepson, Drayton. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Belinda Mims; daughter, Jamie Lynn; stepdaughters, Terrie, Tameesha, Wanda, Lenora and Minktoya; brothers, Clarence (Dorothy), Donald (Sandra) and Melvin (Elisa); sister, Shirley (Marvin); seven step-grandchildren, two step-great grandchildren and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, other relatives and friends, all of whom loved him very much and will miss him dearly. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with pastor Charles Williams officiating. Interment was at Detroit memorial park West, Redford, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster



YOUNG, Barbara Denise, age 48, died February 2, 2008. She was born July 8, 1959. She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Jerry Young; son, Gerald Young; daughters, Yolanda Young and Tiana Young; mother Cora Steanhous; brothers, Marvin (Edith) Steanhous of Detroit, MI, Melvin Steanhous Jr. of Detroit, MI, Martin Steanhous of Taylor, MI, Mervin Steanhous of Trenton, MI and Merlin Steanhous of Detroit, MI; sisters, Joyce Steanhous of Inkster, MI, Jacqueline (Clifton) Johnson of Taylor, MI, Janice (Monroe) Brown of Detroit, MI, Shirley Steanhous of Detroit, MI, Brenda (Dwayne) Johnson of Romulus, MI and Carolyn Wilson of New York, NY; brother-in-law, Irving Young (Shawn) of Southfield, MI; grandchildren, Tajah Young, Raheem Young, Caley Young and Gerald Young Jr. and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Services were held at Greater Grace Temple-Taylor, Taylor, MI with Bishop Gary Harper officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

30. Help Wanted

CANTON BAKERY HIRING Decorators & Counter Help 734-927-1160

Holiday Inn Express-Canton seeks experienced front desk staff for afternoons & evenings. Full & Part-Time Fax resume to: 734-721-1300

Need caring staff to work with gentleman in his family's home. Must have experience with people with developmental disabilities. Job requires helping gentleman with habitation and training skills, social skills and companionship. Must pass criminal record check. \$11/hr. Call bet. 9am - 5pm (734) 678-9595

34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC
COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956

Remodeling • Service • City Repairs

734-722-0037
35728 Van Born • Wayne

121. Autos Wanted

JUNK CARS WANTED
"ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKS IN THE AREA"

OVER 1,000 CARS

MON.-FRI 8:30-5:30 SAT 8:30-4:00

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DOMESTIC & FOREIGN
"CARS FROM THE 60'S TO NOW"
42800 Yost Rd.
(At Intersection of Van Born & Morton Taylor in Canton)
734-397-2200
248-474-4425

The City of Romulus Police Department is accepting applications for a full-time Police. Associate Degree or equivalent in criminal justice highly desirable. Must be MCOLES certified or certifiable at time of hire. Salary: \$42,137.61.

Applications are available at the City of Romulus Human Resources Office, 11111 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI and website: <http://www.romulusgov.com>.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, March 7, 2008. EOE

40. Business Opportunity

Looking for more business referrals? The Masters of Opportunity chapter of BNI meets every Friday from 7am to 8:30am at the Wayne Tree Manor. Visitors are Welcome. Call Trish at: 734-890-1250

59. Auctions

AUTO AUCTION
J & T Crova Towing
36573 Grant St.
Romulus, MI 48174
(734) 941-0221
Wed., February 27, 2008
9:00AM

1999 Lincoln Continental
1LNHM97V8XY640770

1990 Pontiac Gr. Prix
1G2WT54T4LF319720

1998 Ford Escort
1FACP13P7WW137422

1996 Land Rover
SALPV1248TA341739

1994 Chevrolet Blazer
1GNDT13W2R2162512

2000 Kenworth Tractor
1XKDD80X6YJ867198

1994 Benlee Trailer
11B9A14368XB183405

These vehicles were towed by Romulus Police.

On February 27, 2007, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1993 Ford ST
1FMDU34X9PUD51891
07-15110

1999 Ford 4D
1FACP53U3XG183919
07-21297

1990 Buick 2D
1G4EZ13CXLU415617
08-694B

1987 Buick 4D
1G4AH51R9HD459972
08-694C

1992 Honda 4D
1HGCB7655NA133052
08-1926

1995 Chevrolet 2D
2G1FP22S4S2162921
08-2160

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and Storage, 42350 Van Born Rd., Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1992 Ford 4D
1FACP57U1V2NG245353
07-21549

2001 Ford ST
1FMYU70EX1UC42814
07-23515

2000 Chevrolet 2D
1G1JC1248Y7435622
08-629

1990 Mercury 4D
1G4AL54N5L6436032
08-718B

1993 Lincoln 2D
1LNLM91V1P7Y53950
08-1074

1987 Ford 2D
1FABP41AXHF154457
08-1271

1993 Jeep ST
1J4FJ78S6PL598197
08-1330

1982 Chevrolet PU
1GCBS14A3C0139247
08-1872

1989 Chevrolet 4D
1G1AW51W9K6180462
08-2256

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

61. Misc. Items

\$75 QUEEN PLUSH PILLOWTOP
2-piece Mattress & Box Set
NEW in Plastic
Can Deliver
734-326-2744

SOFA & LOVESEAT SET
NEW in plastic & crate.
Full Warranty
Can Deliver
Must sell
ONLY \$450.00
(734) 637-2012

\$150 KING PILLOWTOP
3-piece Mattress & Split-box Set
NEW in Bag
Can Deliver
734-721-3799

NEW 5 Pc. Cherry or Oak Bedroom Suite.
All brand NEW in boxes.
Headboard (Full-Queen),
Night Stand, Chest, Dresser
and Landscape Mirror.
\$395.00
Delivery Available.
(734) 326-2744

\$160 KING PILLOWTOP
Mattress Set
NEW in Bag
Can Deliver
(734) 891-8481

\$75 QUEEN PILLOWTOP
Mattress set
NEW in Plastic.
Can Deliver
(734) 891-8481

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave, HBO.
Call 734-721-1220
Tel-96 Inn
313-535-4100
Fairlane in Novi
248-347-9999
Days Inn/Sunrise Motel
734-427-1300

BELLEVILLE
Furnished, utilities and refrigerator included.
\$80 week
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CANTON DAYS INN
Low Daily, Weekly, and Monthly rates.
Group & Corp. Rates
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Meeting room for up to 35 people
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Coffee makers in all rooms.
40500 Michigan Ave.
Exit 22 off I-275
734-721-5200
www.daysinnccanton.com

ROOM FOR RENT
Wayne
\$85/weekly
All utilities included.
Call 734-721-0232.

88. Duplexes For Rent

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
Call for list of clean, renovated 2 & 3 BR duplexes. Most units Lead Paint safe. Sect. 8 vouchers welcome. Some pets permitted. Flexible move-in cost. Professional local full-time management and service. Office at 2365 S. Venoy. Norplex Associates 734-722-6444 EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

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1BR Private entry Patio, Single story
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Washer/dryer hook-ups
\$597/mo.
\$250/deposit*
First month FREE
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*some restrictions apply

WAYNE
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Quiet and clean 1 BR
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\$450 moves you in with approved credit
Sec. 8 welcome
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or 313-247-2075

WAYNE, MI
Quiet 1 & 2 BRS,
Well maintained
Heat/water/A/C inc.
No pets
Great for singles & retirees
\$470-\$600/month
Call a manager @
734-729-2108 or
734-718-9521
or owner @
734-718-3562

96. Houses For Rent

INKSTER
29440 Hazelwood
3 bedroom
Partially finished
full basement
\$800/mon. & \$800 sec. Call
734-722-4749

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SAVE YOUR HOME NOW!
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105. Mobile Homes for Sale

BELLEVILLE
Renters
If you can afford to pay rent, you can afford to own a home!
Let us show you how!
Franklin Homes at Belleville Manor wants to help you become a Homeowner.
Call Belinda for details
734-699-7700

112. Commercial Lease

Office Space for Lease
Downtown Wayne
Located on Mich. Ave.
Call 734-729-4555
for more info.

118. Freebies

Your 2-line ad here
Absolutely free
Runs for 1 week for any item
selling for \$75 or less.

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Worship Directory

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DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. MCCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday {
Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under
29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48166 • 734-326-3833
www.christtempleafcw.com

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Dana L. Darby, Pastor
"Embrace Each Other As We Serve God"
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New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
821 Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI 48141
Tel: 313-565-3006 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

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Business and Service Directory

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Call Eric at 734-467-1900 to place your Business and Service Directory ad.

THE SCENE

Film doesn't match magical world created in 5 books

When I first saw the trailer for *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, I wondered how they were going to fit all five books into a single movie.

The answer, it turns out, is to essentially ignore the classic books and do your own thing.

Karey Kirkpatrick, David Berenbaum and John Sayles, who wrote the screenplay for the movie, did just that in the film, which would be more aptly titled *The Spiderwick Cliff Notes*.

It's still a pretty exciting movie, though, and worthwhile family entertainment—as long as your children are old enough to handle nasty shape-shifting monsters and things that go bump in the night.

The story keeps the same premise and mostly the same cast of characters. The Grace family—Mom, Helen (Mary Louise Parker); daughter Mallory (Sarah Bolger); and twin sons Simon and Jared (both played by Freddie Highmore)—move into a creepy old estate named after their great uncle, Arthur Spiderwick.

They quickly discover—at least the children do—that there is much more going on inside the house and on the grounds than it seems. Mischievous things crawl in the walls and leave notes scrawled in dust. Jared, sullen and rebellious at the thought of his parents' impending divorce, is blamed for these things which are actually the work of a brownie named Thimbletack (voiced by Martin Short).

Jared soon uncovers a powerful book left behind by his uncle, Arthur Spiderwick's

Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You. It contains sketches and information about the world of fairy and is sought by most of those magical creatures because of the knowledge it contains.

Chief among them is a monstrous ogre named Mulgarath (played in human form by Nick Nolte, who supplies the voice for the computer generated version). He sends his army of goblins after the Grace children, first in small groups but eventually in an all out assault against the house, which is protected by a circle of magical toadstools.

Some of the quirky characters that populated the five-book series are around to help out the children, notably Hogsqueal (voiced by Seth Rogen) whose appetite for birds plays a crucial role in the film.

It's hard to compress so much into 97 minutes, though, so many of the better parts of the series were left out. Much of the mystery is gone, too—in the series, we only learn Mulgarath's name in the fourth book.

Still, there is plenty to enjoy about the film. The child actors are believable enough in their unbelievable setting. Highmore is convincing both as the pacifistic and knowledgeable Simon and as his sullen twin. David Straithairn is about perfect as the long lost Uncle Arthur.

The effects are, of course, what you would expect in a story about a fantastic, magical world just beyond our vision. For a true trip into this world, though, pick up the books. If you watch the film you may know how the series ends, but the journey is still more than worthwhile.

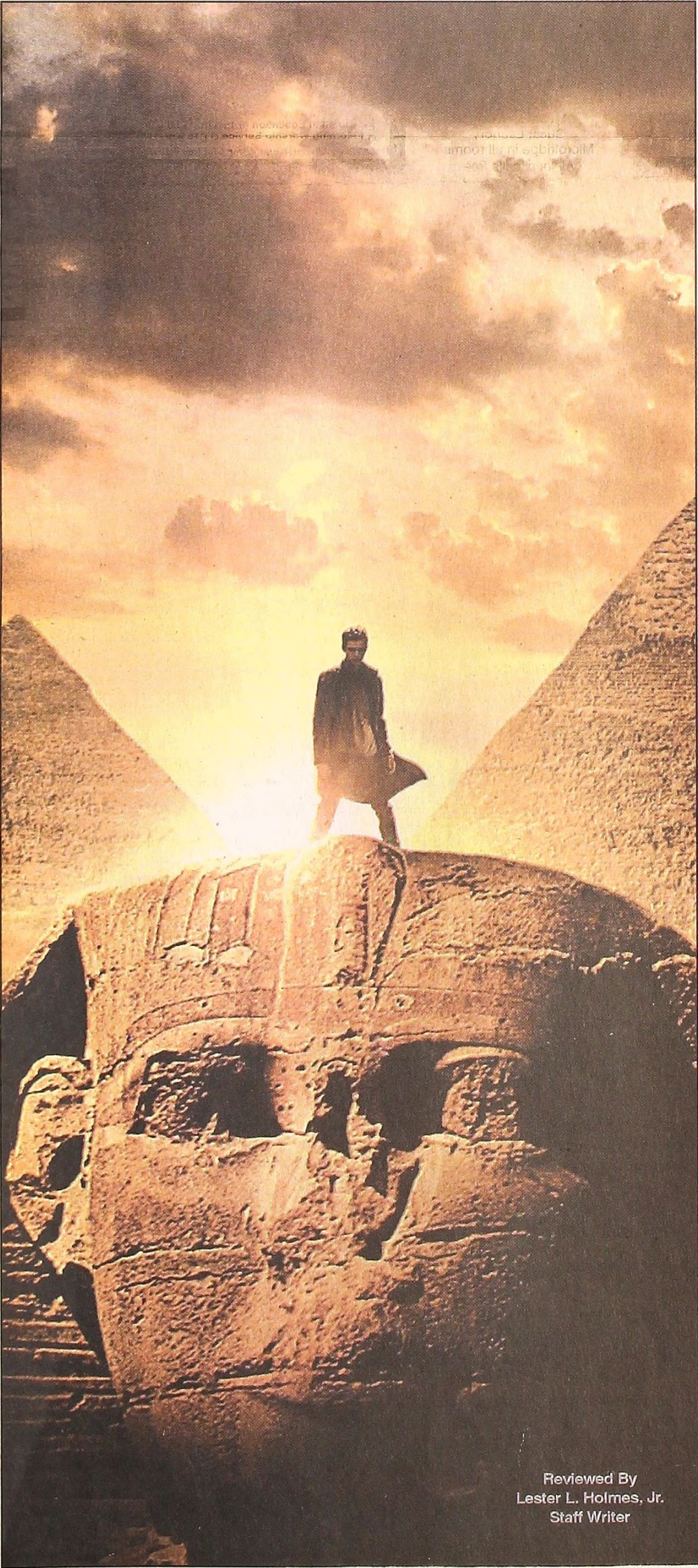


Kid's Corner

I liked this movie. The books were better, but it was still exciting. They left out a lot from the books. I would've liked to have seen the ogre's palace and the stairs that are almost impossible to climb, and the junk yard, and the dragons, and the elves, and the dwarves and the mechanical dogs, and the 'not-Jared,' and the phooka and the knocker—and the troll that came out of the river.

Thimbletack was funny, but he turned into a boggart a lot.

This was a good movie.



Reviewed By
Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

Science fiction fans will love JUMPER

If you thought that Hayden Christensen was powerful with his use of "The Force" in the *Star Wars* series, wait till you see his new superpower:

Jumper, directed by Doug Liman and based on the book written by Steven Gould, is the story of David Rice (Christensen) who has the ability to "jump" or teleport to anywhere he envisions.

The story starts with David as a teen from a dysfunctional, single parent family who is attending an Ann Arbor high school. To retrieve a trinket he gave to a girl, David attempts to walk across a frozen pond. His weight is too heavy for the ice and he falls through into the water. As he is fighting for his last breath and facing the inevitability of his death, David somehow ends up in a library soaking wet. David's first encounter with his super power saved his life.

With his second chance and newly discovered power, David leaves his father in Ann Arbor and jumps to New York City to start life anew.

While in the Big Apple, David decides to use his ability to "borrow" millions in cash and merchandise from banks and stores all over the world.

Now an adult, David is living the perfect life of a rich 24-year old who eats lunch in Cairo and parties in London without a pass-

port or luggage.

His life, however, is about to change drastically as he comes in contact with a man whose purpose in life is to eradicate those with the power "only God should have."

Roland Cox (Samuel L. Jackson) is the leader of the Paladin, an organization that uses advance technology to track jumpers. Roland surprises David in his apartment and after a brief struggle, David escapes and flees back to Ann Arbor.

David makes contact with Millie, (Rachel Bilson) the crush of his high school years. He decides to surprise her with a trip to Rome and the two fall in love traveling through Europe.

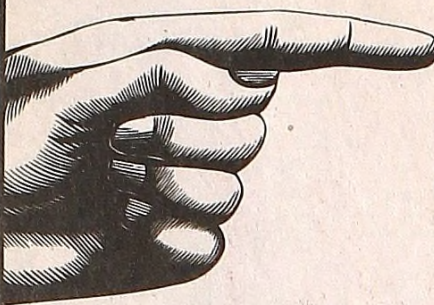
This move proves dangerous as the Paladin continue to trail him. In order to fight the Paladin and to save Millie, David forms and alliance with a fellow jumper named Griffin (Jamie Bell).

In addition to battling those who are trying to kill him, David discovers the true reason his mother, Mary (Diane Lane) abandoned him when he was only 5. That plot-line alone is reason enough for a sequel.

Overall, sci-fi movie fans will be pleased with this effort. The surprise of the film is the sarcastic comedy and biting wit of Bell's character.

Can't wait for the sequel.





STOP



Got Old Junk?

Is it Paper?

Is it Metal?

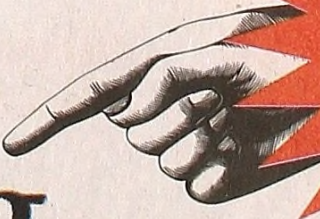
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